



Historical Happenings

Notes on Cultural Resource Management in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS Regional News:

Headquarters—The FWS report for Section 3 of the Preserve America Executive Order (13287) has been submitted to the Advisory Council. Contact Eugene Marino for more information.

Headquarters—As part of the new Cultural Resources website (to be launched later this fall) an image library of FWS cultural resources photos will be added to the website. FWS Cultural Resource staff are asked to send any images they may have to Eugene Marino for inclusion in the image library.

Region 5—Rare Elk Skull and Antlers Unearthed at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

A rare eastern elk skull and antlers were recently excavated from a wetland impoundment on Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom, New York near Buffalo. During a dike construction project the elk parts were found nearly six feet down in the muck soil layer. When it died, the elk was a mature 6 x 6 (12 point), five year old bull. The find included the antlers, the top of the skull, and both lower jaw bones. The muck did an excellent job of preserving the specimen and only one antler point was damaged during the excavation.

Depending on its age, the antlers may be able to tell us about a now-extinct variety of North American elk. The eastern elk is an extinct subspecies of elk that at one time inhabited most of the eastern United States. The elk was extirpated from western New York State around 1820 and by the late nineteenth century the subspecies was completely extinct. Loss of habitat and overhunting were the main causes of its decline. A piece of the elk bone has been sent to a laboratory for dating.

The refuge plans to have the specimen preserved and displayed in the visitor center. Most people are unaware that these animals once roamed New York. This find offers a unique opportunity for the refuge to give visitors a look back in time at the wildlife history of the western New York area.

Other Agency News

ACHP—Two agencies received awards from the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation during the Fall Business Meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia, on November 18, 2004.

The National Park Service's Lewis and Clark Expedition Corps of Discovery II traveling exhibit also received a Chairman's Award. This four-year effort interprets the importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through a traveling exhibit that is retracing the route of the original expedition and shadowing its timeline two centuries after the events.

NPS—Is celebrating the centennial of their museum program. See <http://heritagenews.cr.nps.gov/index/Index.cfm> for more information.

National NGAPRA—databases are on-line and available for use by federal agencies. Information on affiliations with a draft notice, without a draft notice, and collection not yet identified to an affiliation can be reviewed at their website.

See <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/notices/index.htm> for more information.

National NAGPRA—Has issued Section 10.13-Future Application of NAGPRA-in the Federal Register. They will be holding a public teleconference for comments on November 2, 2004 at 2pm EST.

BIA—Has released a recent publication focusing on its activities and accomplishments with Native Americans. See http://www.doi.gov/accomplishments/bia_report.pdf for more information.

NPS—announces four new Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

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Legislative News

Information on the new Sunken Military Craft Act (P.L. 108-375) signed by the President on October 28, 2004. The new law confirms that sunken U.S. military vessels and aircraft are the sovereign property of the United States regardless of the passage of time and provides for archeological research permits and civil enforcement measures (including substantial fines) to prevent unauthorized disturbance.

Note in particular Section 1403 paragraph (b) on consistency with other laws, paragraph (c) on consultation, and paragraph (d) on application to foreign craft, which would come into play when a sunken military craft is located within a unit of the national park system.

In addition, note Section 1406 paragraph (c) making the law of finds not apply to sunken military craft (U.S. or foreign flag) and paragraph (d) making the law of salvage not apply to sunken military craft without the express permission of the sovereign (U.S. or foreign flag).

Also note the definitions in Section 1408. This new statute provides the United States with a new authority for protecting and preserving sunken warships, naval auxiliaries, other vessels owned or operated by a government on military noncommercial service when it sank, military aircraft or military spacecraft that was owned or operated by a government when it sank, and the associated contents of such craft. Many such sunken craft are known or thought to be within units of the national park system and it is good to know there is one more statute that can be added to the existing arsenal of archeological, historic preservation, and government property laws.

Training News

The National Preservation Institute's Training Calendar has been updated and is available at www.npi.org.

"Protecting Archeological Sites on Eroding Shorelines: A Hay Bales Approach" is a new technical brief available from the National Park Service's Archeology and Ethnography program. Authored by Robert M. Thorne, an authority on site stabilization and preservation, the brief offers an inexpensive, yet effective method to preserve archeological sites along lakeshores. This is the latest of a series of online technical briefs offering alternative treatments to preserve and protect archeological sites as well as information about archeological contracting, collections management, public outreach and education, and other topics. www.cr.nps.gov/aad/pubs/techbr

HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

Meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology, La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico
April 5-10, 2005 contact Erve Chambers, c/o Society for Applied Anthropology, P.O. Box 2436,
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436; sfaa2005@sfaa.net; (405) 843-5113.

Workshop on Climate Variability & Ecosystem Impacts in Southwestern Forests/Woodlands February 7-9, 2005 at Arizona's Sedona Hilton

Please click in the link below for more information (Deadline for early registration is Jan. 10): <http://cals.arizona.edu/gila/naturalresources/index.html>

Please forward this announcement to other interested partners you know. Also please forgive multiple messages. Thanks.

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Federal Register News

For December—SUMMARY:

SUMMARY: This is a notice of decision and availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Final CCP/EIS). The Refuge is located in Thurston and Pierce Counties, Washington. A thorough analysis of the environmental, social, and economic considerations was completed and presented in the Final CCP/ EIS. The Final CCP/EIS was released to the public and a Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2004 (69 FR 53084). The ROD documents the selection of Alternative D, the Preferred Alternative in the Final CCP/EIS, as the CCP for Nisqually Refuge. The ROD was signed by the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region, on November 1, 2004.

Native American Liaison News

Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Project Countdown to "Completion"

Furnishing and maintaining the plankhouse will be an ongoing process, so "completion" is really the wrong word. But there is an ever-dwindling list of tasks that will be accomplished between now and the projected Grand Opening next spring. Here is a snapshot of the timeline as it now stands (subject to change, of course!).

December:

Contractor completes installation of infrastructure

Volunteers continue splitting and fitting wall planks; fitting roof plank "kits" together.

January:

Contractor installs roof planks

Volunteers install wall planks, begin work on interior sleeping platforms, benches, and furnishings

February:

Volunteers continue working on the plankhouse interior, building hearth boxes, installing furnishings, etc.

March:

Gala Celebration for Volunteers!

Grand Opening Media Event

Grand Opening Public Event

Volunteers continue working on the interior....

Requests for Information

The Service is increasing its participation in the National Trails System, the Trails for All Americans program, and promoting our part in the CDC initiative, Trails for Health. As part of that effort we are trying to increase the visibility of the Service in the National Trails System. The National Trails System has three components: National Scenic Trails, such as

the Appalachian Trail; National Historic Trails, such as the Trail of Tears; and National Recreation Trails, unique local or regional trails. National Scenic and Historic Trails are congressionally designated, National Recreation Trails are designated by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.

There are 15 National Historic Trails in the NTS. Seven of them have NWRs or NFHs along them or near them. The Service is interested in certifying refuges and hatcheries along NHTs. Certification is a partnership that helps landowners protect and preserve their historic trail properties, and share them with others. Nathan Caldwell, the newest addition to the WO transportation staff, will be working with interested regions and field stations on the certification process. For more information and a list of the NHTs and NWRs or NFHs associated with them, contact Nathan by email or at phone (703) 358-2205.